

2011 Franklin County Budget Message

John O'Grady, President, Board of Commissioners

Next on our agenda is Resolution 988-10, which would authorize the annual appropriation measure for Fiscal Year 2011.

My colleagues and I are pleased to present to the residents of Franklin County a balanced budget that is fiscally responsible, and meets the essential needs of Franklin County residents.

The forecast for General Fund revenue in 2011, which sets the framework for appropriations in the 2011 budget, is for revenue to decline 1.4%. This has meant that county agencies have been asked to tighten their belts again. This will be accomplished without sacrificing our commitments toward our top priorities of supporting jobs and economic growth, protecting community safety

and security, maintaining core human services, including access to affordable health care, affordable housing and emergency shelter while maintaining our commitments to environmental quality and sustainable practices.

During this year, as a result of spending restraint by county agencies and offices, 2010 General Fund expenditures are expected to be \$6.9 million (2.2%) less than the total spending authorized in the 2010 budget. We hope to carry this trend into 2011.

By controlling expenditures and maintaining prudent reserves, Franklin County continues to be among the best managed counties in the nation, and has maintained its double-Triple A bond rating. This bond rating level is in the top 1% of all counties in the nation. Because of this rating, the county is able to minimize the expenses paid to finance our capital projects, like the new Common Pleas courthouse and the new animal shelter,

which add jobs to our economy and improve our quality of life.

With that said, our budget numbers are as follows:

- The 2011 Total All-Funds Budget is \$1.64 billion.
- The 2011 General Fund Budget totals \$308.1 million.
- The 2011 General Fund available resources total \$332.4 million, including \$50.8 million in the county's beginning cash balance.

In funding essential services, the 2011 budget follows the fiscal sustainability policy standards established by this Board in October 2008. Excluding reserves and debt, 67% of the County's General Fund budget will be spent on providing public safety, justice, and security for Franklin County residents.

As I mentioned earlier, our number one concern is jobs and economic development. The budget makes

significant economic investments to encourage the development of good jobs and private business growth.

Before concluding, I would like to thank Commissioner Brooks and Commissioner Brown, elected officials throughout the county, and especially, our County Administrator Don Brown, Deputy County Administrators Bill Flaherty, Erik Janas, and Ken Wilson, and all of our OMB staff who have been instrumental in developing this budget. I recognize the difficulty of this task and want to applaud everyone's efforts.

Now I'd like to ask my colleagues to say a few words regarding this budget.